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Mr. Stirrup adds that M. Martel, the Secretary, may be addressed at 8 rue Ménars, Paris.

*The Voyages of the Cabots in 1497 and 1498. With an attempt to determine their landfall and to identify their island of St. John. By Samuel Edward Dawson, Lit.D. From the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. XII, Section II, 1894, pp. 51-112.*

Dr. Dawson has written an admirable paper. At the outset, he accepts without discussion the following propositions:

That John Cabot was a Venetian, who settled in England with all his family;

That Sebastian, his second son, was born in Venice;

That letters patent of Henry VII were issued March 5, 1496, to the father and his three sons, empowering them, at their own expense, to discover and take possession of new lands for England;

That John Cabot, accompanied perhaps by Sebastian, sailed from Bristol in May, 1497, discovered and landed upon some part of America, between Cape Cod, in Massachusetts, and Cape Chidley, in Labrador, and returned to Bristol in July of the same year;

That in consideration of this discovery King Henry VII granted solely to John Cabot new letters patent, dated February 3, 1498, authorizing a second expedition on a more extended scale. That this expedition consisted of several ships and about 300 men; that it sailed in the spring of 1498, and that John and Sebastian Cabot went with it. It returned, but no one knows when, and with it John Cabot disappears from history.

The two voyages are to be distinguished. The former, accomplished by John Cabot, in the little ship *Matthew*, with a crew of 18 men, lasted over three months, for which period only it was provisioned, and its course was south of Ireland, then for a while north and lastly west, with the pole star on the right hand. On this first voyage no ice was reported and no man was seen.

The second voyage was in every respect unlike the first, and the question of the first landfall has been complicated by confounding the incidents and events of the two expeditions.

From his critical examination of the authorities, corrected by his personal acquaintance with the coasts and the waters, Dr. Dawson draws these conclusions:

1. That the island called St. John on the map of 1544 is not that now known as Prince Edward Island, but is the great Magdalen Island, which lies in the course of vessels passing through the strait between Cape Breton and Newfoundland.

2. That the island of St. John of Cabot is Scatari Island, marking the landfall at Cape Breton, the easternmost point of the island called after it, and that that cape is the natural landfall of a vessel missing Cape Race and pursuing a westerly course.

It follows, in his opinion, that John Cabot planted the banner of St. George on the American continent on the 24th of June, 1497, more than a year before Columbus set foot on the mainland. To speak with exactness, however, the priority can hardly belong to Cabot, since Cape Breton is, after all, an island.

It is less easy to settle the claims of Sebastian Cabot. Mr. Henry Stevens's formula—Sebastian Cabot — John Cabot=zero— has the sting and the honey and the girth of the epigram, but it is not to be taken seriously. Sebastian was a self-seeker, dishonest and false-hearted, according to some writers; but Dr. Dawson judges him with charity. He says that Cabot's reputation has been entirely at the mercy of his friends and that it is impossible to say whether he was addicted to inaccuracy of expression, or his friends were endowed with treacherous memories. His ability and nautical knowledge are hardly to be questioned. For years he held the office of Grand Pilot of Spain and, as Dr. Dawson says, Ferdinand and Charles V, who were good judges of men, trusted him to the last.

Dr. Dawson finds some firm ground in the conflicting testimony with regard to the second expedition, which returned under command of Sebastian. These points are established: That the expedition was a large and important one; that it sailed to the north, and that the landfall was far in the north in a region of ice and continual daylight; that from the extreme north it coasted south to latitude 38° in search of an open ocean to Cathay; that having been provisioned for a year, the expedition was fitted for such an exploration, and had the time to perform it.

If, as seems probable, the landfall in this case was on the coast of Labrador, the honour of discovering the mainland of North America belongs to the second expedition, rather than to the first; but nothing can be affirmed on this point, and the distinction, such as it is, of the first landing on the continent seems to belong of right to Columbus.

*The First Landfall of Columbus, by Jacques W. Redway, F.R.G.S.  
Reprint from National Geographic Magazine, 1894, pp. 179-192.*

In this paper Mr. Redway makes a well-sustained effort to identify the island of Samaná with the Admiral's Guanahani. He finds by a study of the earlier maps that Guanahani, El Terrigo, Trianga, Atwood Cay, Isle Nova and Samaná are one and the same, and that